

Sermon on Theophany

Dear Brothers and Sisters!

Today we celebrate the great feast of the Theophany.

The baptism of Jesus was the beginning of his public life. It is worth noting, that before that, for most of His earthly life, Jesus lived like all ordinary people of that time: without apparent greatness, working with his own hands, and leading a simple religious life. According to the Gospels, Jesus was "...obedient..." to his parents and "...increased in wisdom and in stature, and in favor with God and man." (Luke 2:51-52)

The Theophany of the Lord is not just a great event and loud news for a person. The Lord's Theophany is a part of our personal life. God is revealed to us not far from us. It is revealed to us first of all in our hidden life: in our silence and obedience, in our ordinary family and community life, as well as in our often difficult and exhausting work.

In addition, the event of Theophany took place in the Jordan River, where people washed away their sins. The Savior entered this Jordan, which was full of human sins, and it was there that the sky opened above him and a voice was heard: "...You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased." (Luke 3:22)

When Jesus was baptized in the Jordan River, the glory of the Lord was revealed to the people: through the Son of God standing in the waters, through the voice of the Father speaking through the open heavens, and through the Holy Spirit descending in the form of a dove. This glory of the Lord was revealed to people where no one expected it.

A church holyday is not just a commemoration of an evangelical event. A church holyday is an evangelical event that takes place today, which is a continuation of the event described in the Gospel. And that is why today's holy Theophany of the Lord is the Theophany now. God is revealed to us today through his Word, through His presence among us. And today, each of us is the spiritual Jordan into which Christ enters.

The person who follows Christ in repentance will be able to hear the same voice from Heaven that was heard in the Jordan River. If we learn to put off our own affairs and obey this voice, we will be able to see another true reality. We will see the Heavenly Father who can say of each of us: This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; this is my beloved daughter whom I have loved. He does everything so that we can, through His Holy Spirit, cleanse earthly life and prepare for eternal life.

Congratulations to you, dear believers, on the feast of the Theophany of the Lord!